



# WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin  
Department of Workforce Development  
Office of Economic Advisors

## FOR SOUTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTIES

KENOSHA, RACINE AND WALWORTH COUNTIES

June 2004

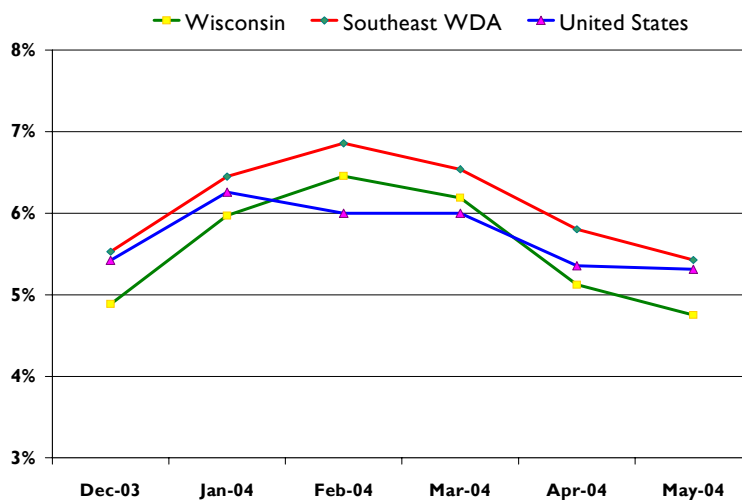
### MAY BRINGS MORE JOBS TO THE SOUTHEAST

**Walworth County's** unemployment rate in May was 3.6 percent. This is the county's lowest unemployment rate, year-to-date. The rate has decreased four-tenths of a percentage point since April and is four-tenths of a percentage point lower than the rate from May 2003. There are 700 more employed Walworth residents compared to 200 fewer unemployed.

Walworth's industry employment totaled 43,200 jobs in May. This is a net improvement of 1,400 jobs since April. This monthly increase was the largest employment increase of the three regional counties, which is not surprising in this month. The monthly gain was centered in an 800-job gain in leisure and hospitality employment; most of this located in the Lake Geneva area. Construction em-

ployment showed the second largest increase with 200 more jobs. Other small, seasonal gains were seen in business services (temporary employment and employment sourcing agencies) and in retail trade; each gained about 100 more jobs. Education and health services employers added about 100 jobs as well. The remaining sectors were flat over the month showing very little employment change.

#### Six-Month Unemployment Rate Watch



The annual industry employment picture in Walworth shows a net loss of 200 jobs compared to May 2003. It is the only regional county to show an annual net loss of jobs. Job losses were seen in manufacturing (-100 jobs), transportation, warehousing and utilities (-100 jobs); and construction (-200 jobs). Annual job gains were seen in retail trade, education and health services, and government employment.

**Racine MSA's** labor force data showed a not seasonally adjusted unemployment rate of 6.8 percent in May. May's was lower

#### Civilian Labor Force Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin Counties: May 2004

|              | Wisconsin       |           |           | Kenosha County |         |         | Racine County |             |             |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------|---------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|              | May-04          | Apr-04    | May-03    | May-04         | Apr-04  | May-03  | May-04        | Apr-04      | May-03      |
| Labor force  | 3,097,813       | 3,081,638 | 3,060,266 | 84,993         | 84,465  | 84,728  | 93,339        | 93,583      | 93,203      |
| Employed     | 2,950,608       | 2,923,741 | 2,896,172 | 80,578         | 79,933  | 79,762  | 87,019        | 86,755      | 85,747      |
| Unemployed   | 147,205         | 157,897   | 164,094   | 4,415          | 4,532   | 4,966   | 6,320         | 6,828       | 7,456       |
| % Unemployed | 4.8%            | 5.1%      | 5.4%      | 5.2%           | 5.4%    | 5.9%    | 6.8%          | 7.3%        | 8.0%        |
|              | Walworth County |           |           | Southeast WDA  |         |         | United States |             |             |
|              | May-04          | Apr-04    | May-03    | May-04         | Apr-04  | May-03  | May-04        | Apr-04      | May-03      |
| Labor force  | 57,587          | 56,207    | 57,074    | 235,919        | 234,255 | 235,005 | 146,659,000   | 146,260,000 | 146,067,000 |
| Employed     | 55,519          | 53,972    | 54,809    | 223,116        | 220,660 | 220,318 | 138,867,000   | 138,423,000 | 137,567,000 |
| Unemployed   | 2,068           | 2,235     | 2,265     | 12,803         | 13,595  | 14,687  | 7,792,000     | 7,837,000   | 8,500,000   |
| % Unemployed | 3.6%            | 4.0%      | 4.0%      | 5.4%           | 5.8%    | 6.2%    | 5.3%          | 5.4%        | 5.8%        |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Local Area Unemployment Statistics. Figures are not seasonally adjusted and current month's data are preliminary

## Industry Employment Estimates for Southeast Wisconsin - May 2004

|                                    | Wisconsin                      |                                  |                                | Kenosha County                 |                                  |                                | Racine County                  |                                  |                                | Walworth County                |                                  |                                | Southeast WDA                  |                                  |                                |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>Employment in 1,000's</u>       | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>April<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2003 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>April<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2003 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>April<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2003 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>April<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2003 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>April<br>2004 | Change<br>since<br>May<br>2003 |
| All Industries                     | 2832.4                         | 35.2                             | 36.4                           | 54.8                           | 0.7                              | 0.0                            | 79.0                           | 0.6                              | 0.3                            | 43.2                           | 1.4                              | -0.2                           | 177.0                          | 2.7                              | 0.1                            |
| Construction/Natural Resources     | 132.7                          | 7.8                              | 0.9                            | 2.3                            | 0.1                              | -0.1                           | 3.8                            | 0.2                              | 0.0                            | 1.8                            | 0.2                              | -0.2                           | 7.9                            | 0.5                              | -0.3                           |
| Manufacturing                      | 508.7                          | 4.7                              | 4.1                            | 9.8                            | 0.1                              | -0.6                           | 18.9                           | -0.2                             | -0.6                           | 8.8                            | 0.0                              | -0.1                           | 37.5                           | -0.1                             | -1.3                           |
| Total Trade                        | 439.9                          | 5.2                              | 11.0                           | 8.9                            | 0.0                              | 0.2                            | 12.4                           | 0.3                              | -0.2                           | 5.8                            | 0.1                              | 0.1                            | 27.1                           | 0.4                              | 0.1                            |
| Retail Trade                       | 322.7                          | 3.9                              | 6.7                            | 6.8                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 9.4                            | 0.3                              | -0.2                           | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             |
| Wholesale Trade                    | 117.2                          | 1.3                              | 4.3                            | 2.1                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 3.0                            | 0.0                              | 0.0                            | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             |
| Transport/Warehouse/Utilities      | 105.3                          | 0.6                              | -1.9                           | 1.5                            | 0.0                              | -0.2                           | 2.0                            | 0.1                              | -0.1                           | 1.1                            | 0.0                              | -0.1                           | 4.6                            | 0.1                              | -0.4                           |
| Financial Activities               | 159.4                          | 0.9                              | 2.4                            | 1.8                            | 0.1                              | 0.1                            | 2.8                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 1.2                            | 0.0                              | 0.0                            | 5.8                            | 0.1                              | 0.2                            |
| Education and Health Services      | 375.0                          | 0.5                              | 10.9                           | 8.3                            | -0.1                             | 0.3                            | 10.5                           | 0.0                              | 0.5                            | 3.9                            | 0.1                              | 0.1                            | 22.7                           | 0.0                              | 0.9                            |
| Leisure and Hospitality            | 255.5                          | 13.3                             | 3.4                            | 6.2                            | 0.4                              | 0.1                            | 6.7                            | 0.3                              | 0.0                            | 7.6                            | 0.8                              | 0.0                            | 20.5                           | 1.5                              | 0.1                            |
| Info/Prof./Bus. and Other Services | 436.2                          | 3.0                              | 10.3                           | 6.5                            | 0.0                              | 0.2                            | 11.6                           | 0.0                              | 0.5                            | 5.2                            | 0.1                              | 0.0                            | 23.3                           | 0.1                              | 0.7                            |
| Information                        | 48.2                           | -0.2                             | -1.4                           | 0.5                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 0.6                            | 0.0                              | 0.0                            | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             |
| Professional and Business Services | 257.9                          | 2.8                              | 14.2                           | 3.3                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 6.3                            | 0.0                              | 0.5                            | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             |
| Other Services                     | 130.1                          | 0.4                              | -2.5                           | 2.7                            | 0.0                              | 0.0                            | 4.7                            | 0.0                              | 0.0                            | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             | xx                             | xx                               | xx                             |
| Fed/State/Local Government         | 419.7                          | -0.8                             | -4.7                           | 9.5                            | 0.1                              | 0.0                            | 10.3                           | -0.1                             | 0.1                            | 7.7                            | 0.0                              | 0.1                            | 27.5                           | 0.0                              | 0.2                            |

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics and DWD, Current Employment Statistics. Figures are rounded and may not sum to total. Current month's figures are preliminary

than April's rate by five-tenths of a percentage point and was dramatically lower than May 2003's figure of 8.0 percent. There are close to 1,300 more employed Racine County residents compared to 1,100 fewer unemployed in comparison to figures from May 2003

Racine's nonfarm wage and salary figures show a total of 79,000 jobs in the county. This is a net improvement over the month of 600 jobs. Retail trade and leisure and hospitality employment showed seasonal gains of 300 jobs each. Construction showed a seasonal gain of 200 jobs. Manufacturing posted a loss of 200 jobs. Government employment posted a loss of 100 jobs. The remaining sectors were virtually unchanged over the month. In all likelihood, June will show a larger employment gain compared to May.

Annually, the county's job tally has improved by 300 more jobs. This is the third month in a row to show an overall net gain in jobs over the year. The net gain was composed of 500-job gains, each, in education and health services and professional and business services employment. Financial activities and government em-

ployment were up slightly, too. These gains were offset by losses in manufacturing (-600 jobs), retail trade (-200 jobs), and transportation/warehousing/utilities (-100 jobs).

The **Kenosha MSA** unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted) for May was 5.2 percent. This is a decrease compared to April by two-tenths of a percentage point. This is also considerable improvement compared to May 2003 with over 800 more employed and 550 fewer unemployed. The unemployment rate is seven-tenths of a percentage point lower than in May 2003.

Kenosha's industry employment tally shows 54,800 jobs. This represents a net monthly increase of 700 jobs. Employment gains were seen in leisure and hospitality (+400 jobs). Construction, financial activities, government and manufacturing each showed gains of about 100 jobs. Only one sector showed a loss of employment as education and health services showed 100 fewer jobs since April.

Industry employment performance over the year shows no net change in employ-

ment levels. The fact that there was no net loss of employment was a small victory marking an end to seven consecutive months of overall annual job loss. From an individual sector perspective, the performances are mixed. Three sectors show annual employment losses; manufacturing (-600 jobs) and transportation/warehousing/utilities (-200 jobs) and construction (-100 jobs). The largest annual employment gain was seen in education and health services (+300 jobs), which as a sector masks a 600-job gain in the health care services industry, alone. Total trade; and information, professional and business services, each posted gains of 200 jobs. Financial activities employment gained 100 jobs.

Direct questions and comments to:

**Eric Grosso, State Labor Economist**

201 East Washington Avenue

Room A400

Madison, Wisconsin 53702

Phone: 608.266.7034

e-mail: [eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us](mailto:eric.grosso@dwd.state.wi.us)

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